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QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In resolution 46/73 B of 11 December 1991, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its forty-seventh session and to the Committee on Information at its fourteenth session on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the resolution.

2. The following documents related to topics covered by the resolution were submitted to the Committee on Information at its fourteenth session, held from 30 March to 16 April 1992:

(a) Report on the activities of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (A/AC.198/1992/2);

(b) Report on the implementation of a system-wide information programme for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/AC.198/1992/3);

(c) Report on the United Nations information centres in 1991: allocation of resources and host government assistance (A/AC.198/1992/4).

3. The Under-Secretary-General for Public Information provided additional information in several statements delivered to the Committee.

4. The deliberations of the Committee on Information are reflected in its report to the General Assembly. ^{1/} As in the past, the present report avoids, to the extent possible, repetition of the material contained in the reports submitted to the Committee. It covers mainly items not considered by the

Committee, or updates the information contained in the reports referred to above.

5. The present report focuses essentially on the special activities and products of the Department of Public Information (DPI). It therefore does not cover in detail the contents of regular publications and radio and television programmes, such as Perspective, UN in Action, World Chronicle, Notes for Speakers and DPI/NGO Briefing Summaries, which disseminate information on a continuing basis on the range of issues dealt with by the United Nations.

II. COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

6. In paragraph 1 (b) (i) of resolution 46/73 B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that DPI cooperated more regularly with UNESCO, especially at the working level, with a view to maximizing the contribution of the Department to the efforts of that Organization.

7. During the reporting period, the Department has pursued consultations with UNESCO, through its International Programme for the Development of Communication, on the implementation of projects proposed by the Seminar on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press, that had been jointly organized by the Department and UNESCO and held at Windhoek in 1991.

8. Also, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Department joined UNESCO in organizing a seminar on promoting an independent and pluralistic Asian media, to be held at Almaty from 5 to 9 October 1992. Some 80 publishers, editors, radio and television producers, media investors and others are expected to participate in workshops and in the general debate. The Seminar is to conclude with the identification of areas to be considered for priority assistance and the preparation of a list of specific projects for implementation.

III. COOPERATION WITH THE NEWS AGENCIES OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES

9. In paragraph 1 (b) (ii) of resolution 46/73 B, the Secretary-General was requested to ensure that DPI enhanced its cooperation with news agencies of and in the developing countries, in particular, the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries, the Eco-Pool of the News Agencies of Non-Aligned Countries and the Broadcasting Organization of Non-Aligned Countries, as well as with other news agencies and intergovernmental and regional organizations.

10. During the reporting period, the Department continued its cooperation with the Pool of News Agencies of Non-Aligned Countries by providing the news agency TANJUG with daily news items on a variety of economic, social, environmental and other priority issues of concern to the United Nations, in accordance with the 1989 agreement reached with that news agency.

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IV. ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

11. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 46/73 B, the Secretary-General was requested to ensure that the Department continued to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to international peace and security.

12. In that connection, the Department, in cooperation with the Office of Conference Services, coordinated the production and distribution of the Secretary-General's report of 17 June 1992, entitled "An agenda for peace" (A/47/277-S/24111), in booklet form in all the official languages (DPI/1247). The report was rapidly disseminated world wide in cooperation with the network of United Nations information centres, as well as through the more than 1,300 non-governmental organizations associated with the Department. The text was also translated into German by the United Nations Information Service in Vienna and into Japanese by the Information Centre in Tokyo. Highlights of the report were prepared by a number of United Nations information centres and translated into Czech, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, Tagalog and Urdu.

13. Following the publication of "An agenda for peace", the Department organized interviews with the Secretary-General and top United Nations officials and conducted a series of background briefings for the press. In that connection, in order to ensure a more effective world-wide distribution of major policy statements by the Secretary-General among national news organizations and non-governmental organizations, the Department has prepared a set of guidelines for use by United Nations information centres and field offices of UNDP.

14. The Department recently produced a pamphlet, in all official languages, containing the text of the Declaration on Fact-finding by the United Nations in the Field of the Maintenance of International Peace and Security. In addition, the reference paper entitled "United Nations Security Council resolutions relating to the situation between Iraq and Kuwait" was updated (DPI/1104/Rev.3).

15. "Regional Conflicts: Threats to World Peace and Progress" was the theme of the 1992 Annual NGO Conference, sponsored by DPI and held from 9 to 11 September 1992. The Conference examined the causes, dynamics and consequences of regional conflicts, reviewed the central role of the United Nations in disarmament, peace-keeping and peacemaking and addressed the important role of non-governmental organizations in conflict resolution and humanitarian assistance. The Conference drew over 1,000 non-governmental organization representatives from nearly 60 Member States. A summary report of the Conference proceedings will be issued before the end of 1992.

16. The Department provided radio coverage of the International Conference on Yugoslavia, which took place in London from 26 to 28 August 1992. Arrangements were made with the United Nations Information Centre in London to feed the Department's Radio Service with on-line coverage of the statements made by the Secretary-General, the President of the European Economic

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Community and other speakers at the plenary meetings. The audio material received was used in the news bulletins and round-ups by all regional units, as well as in "The Blue Helmets", the special weekly segment on peace-keeping.

V. WORLD DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGN

17. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 46/73 B, the Secretary-General was called upon to ensure that the Department continued to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to disarmament.

18. The Department has undertaken a range of activities to promote the objectives of the World Disarmament Campaign. Disarmament-related events, such as the observance of the 1991 Disarmament Week, the proceedings of the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission, as well as the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly, were covered in a number of press releases and in the UN Chronicle.

19. In addition, several special in-depth radio programmes were devoted to the issue of disarmament, namely: "Disarmament: challenge to humanity"; "Africa: a nuclear-weapon-free zone - transforming a declaration into a legally binding treaty"; "Promoting transparency in international transfer of conventional arms"; "South Africa's accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty"; and "Strengthening the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency". Moreover, the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme was featured in the monthly radio magazine UN Africa.

20. During the reporting period, DPI, in cooperation with the Office of Disarmament Affairs, produced a disarmament poster entitled "We have a choice" (DPI/1146) and prepared two United Nations Focus articles on the work of the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (DPI/1239 and Rev.1). "Hide and seek in Iraq", the United Nations video documentary devoted to the work of the Special Commission in Iraq, was broadcast on 26 May 1992 simultaneously on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's English and French networks. The British Broadcasting Corporation has also acquired the video. A 30-minute version is being distributed to television stations throughout the world.

21. In April 1992, the Department organized a non-governmental organization briefing on "Nuclear non-proliferation and the verification system", which some 200 non-governmental organization representatives attended. In addition, from September 1991 to May 1992, DPI organized 24 briefings and speaking engagements for a variety of groups on the subject of disarmament.

22. In connection with the 1992 Disarmament Week, the Department is planning to produce a radio documentary entitled "Disarmament in the post-cold war era".

VI. PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS

23. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 46/73 B, the Secretary-General was requested to ensure that the Department continued to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to peace-keeping operations.

24. The media's increasing focus on the United Nations role in peace-keeping and peacemaking has necessitated expanding the scope of the support provided by the Department to the Secretary-General in his relations with the press. A flexible communication network, set up during the Iraq/Kuwait conflict, has been effectively used to keep the press continuously informed about the efforts of the Secretary-General and various United Nations agencies, bodies and operations aimed at the peaceful settlement of conflicts, particularly in such areas of international tension as Cambodia, Somalia and Yugoslavia.

25. The Department, in close cooperation with the relevant substantive offices, continued to lend its full support to peace-keeping and other political missions through its information products and programme proposals. It updated its policy paper "Standards for the information component of peace-keeping and other political missions", which sets out a general operational framework for planning and implementing such programmes.

26. For global dissemination, it also periodically updated its Information Notes on all ongoing missions, issued a background note on peace-keeping operations (PS/DPI/15/Rev.1), and issued United Nations Focus features relating to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Work is in progress on a "United Nations peace-keeping" booklet, which would reflect, among other things, developments since the last publication of The Blue Helmets, in August 1990. Other information materials produced during the reporting period include a booklet entitled "Agreements on a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict" (DPI/1180), as well as a press kit (DPI/1217) and brochure (DPI/1218) on UNTAC, and the "El Salvador agreements: the path to peace" booklet (DPI/1208).

27. As part of its efforts to disseminate information relating to the priority areas of peace-keeping and peacemaking, in June 1992 the Department introduced a new radio segment entitled "The Blue Helmets" into its weekly radio news-magazine programmes. The segment is produced in all official languages.

28. Video teams have been sent to Angola, El Salvador and Yugoslavia to obtain footage for the production of UN in Action on United Nations peace-keeping operations. Recently, a United Nations video producer reported live from UNPROFOR for a United Nations contribution to the CNN World Report, a weekly programme that is seen in some 90 countries.

29. The Department is producing an educational video and teaching guide on peace-keeping and peacemaking in the series About the United Nations in English, French and Spanish.

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30. The Department has assisted the Military History Quarterly on a special section on United Nations peace-keeping for the autumn 1992 edition, as well as on a supplement on the subject. The Department is also producing a wall chart on United Nations peace-keeping for world-wide distribution.

VII. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO DECOLONIZATION AND THE SITUATION IN NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

31. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 46/73 B, the Department was requested to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to decolonization and the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the light of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

32. In pursuance of that mandate, the Department has continued to implement the programme of activities developed to publicize the inalienable right of the people of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and the General Assembly's 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. As part of that programme, the Department actively pursued the dissemination of a booklet produced in 1991 containing the profiles of the remaining Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories under the title of Decolonization: the task ahead (DPI/1109).

33. Within the context of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Department also continued to disseminate another booklet, Teaching about decolonization, accompanied by a video. Both the booklet and the video were issued in English as part of the About the United Nations educational series.

VIII. ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS

34. In paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 46/73 B, DPI was requested to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to human rights.

35. The Department has prepared a public information programme to promote the World Conference on Human Rights, to be held at Vienna in June 1993. The flame logo identified with the United Nations programme on human rights will be used as the logo on all public information products for the Conference.

36. The main elements of the programme for the Conference include an illustrated brochure and a multi-colour poster, using the slogan "Keep the flame alive", in all official languages; a print public service announcement based on the poster, to be produced and distributed in late 1992 (English); a press information kit, to be produced by the end of 1992 and distributed in time for Human Rights Day, 10 December 1992 (English, French and Spanish); a series of background notes to be issued periodically within the United Nations

Focus series, six to eight of which will be included in the press kit (English, French and Spanish); special coverage of the issues before the Conference in the UN Chronicle in all official languages and in Development Forum (English, French and Spanish), beginning in the fourth quarter of 1992; a special edition of the publication Notes for Speakers, to be produced in late 1992 for distribution in early 1993 (English, French and Spanish); and reprints of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the official languages of the United Nations and in selected local languages, as well as reprints of other international human rights instruments.

37. Plans for the audio-visual components of the information programme include a series of special radio feature documentaries in all official languages and other languages, to be produced within the Perspective series during the fourth quarter of 1992 for distribution beginning in January 1993; four or more segments of the television programme UN in Action, to be produced for use on the CNN World Report; and two or more 30-minute programmes in the video panel discussion series World Chronicle, to include interviews with leading personalities in the field of human rights.

38. Local information programmes, to be carried out by United Nations information centres, include the organization of national seminars, panel discussions and exhibits, and the reproduction of information materials into local languages.

39. In the About the United Nations series, DPI has produced an educational video and teaching guide in English, French and Spanish that focuses on the rights of the child.

40. DPI is also assisting the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in publicizing its activities. In particular, a special press outreach was undertaken to promote the launch of a series of emergency appeals during the summer, including the production of special press releases, television and radio programmes.

41. A special promotional campaign has been developed for the International Year for the World's Indigenous People (1993). For the launch of the Year, on Human Rights Day, 10 December 1992, the Department is organizing a special event to be held at Headquarters, in cooperation with the NGO Committee on the Year, the Centre for Human Rights and a number of United Nations agencies. In addition, a press kit (combined with the kit for the World Conference on Human Rights) will be available for the Day. A poster and a brochure describing the aims and purposes of the Year were issued in September in all official languages.

IX. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO WOMEN AND THEIR ROLE IN SOCIETY

42. In resolution 46/73 B, paragraph 1 (b) (iii), the Department was called upon to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to the advancement of the status of women and their role in society. In that connection, the Department continues to collaborate closely with the Division for the Advancement of Women and is actively involved in the inter-agency discussions concerning the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies and preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in 1995. The Department, in cooperation with the Division for the Advancement of Women, has prepared a draft public information strategy for promoting the objectives of the Conference.

43. A 100-page illustrated book, Women: challenges to the year 2000 (DPI/1134), was produced by the Department in 1992 (in English, French and Spanish) as part of a world-wide educational campaign to increase awareness of the obstacles encountered in implementing the Forward-looking Strategies. Both the book and an accompanying brochure and poster have been widely distributed. A series of feature articles on issues relating to women continues to be produced and distributed by the Department in English, French and Spanish. These are often reprinted in the media and used in newsletters of United Nations information centres and services and in non-governmental organization publications. The Department also continues to produce the weekly radio programme, Women, in English and bi-monthly programmes in Arabic, French and Spanish. These programmes are distributed to about 400 radio stations world wide.

44. The Department has also produced material on such topics as traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, and human rights and the family. A feature article discussing the relationship between ageing, disability and gender is being included in each press kit for the special meetings of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly on these issues.

X. ACTIVITIES ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

45. Pursuant to resolution 46/73 B, paragraph 1 (b) (iii), in which DPI is requested to continue to disseminate information on the problems of economic and social development, the Department is working closely with the new Department of Economic and Social Development to develop a public information strategy to help promote its activities.

46. DPI organized the press launch of two recent major publications, the World Economic Survey and the World Investment Report. They were introduced to the international press at Headquarters through press briefings and a press luncheon, as well as a series of press conferences organized by United Nations information centres around the world. Media coverage was excellent, with articles appearing in leading international economic and financial newspapers, as well as on wire services and radio broadcasts.

47. During the reporting period, the Department has also pursued activities on a number of social issues. "Social agenda #6", a leaflet containing information on United Nations social development programmes, was issued in English, French and Spanish and distributed in April 1992 (DPI/1177).

48. In connection with the International Congress and Exposition on Disability and the related United Nations expert meeting, both held at Vancouver in April 1992, DPI coordinated the production of an exhibit and provided selected press release coverage, as well as press and media liaison services. DPI is producing a major inter-agency publication to commemorate the end of the Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992). Entitled The Decade of Disabled Persons: a global commitment, the project is being financed through contributions by participating United Nations agencies and organizations. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Promotion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons also provided seed money for production of design prototypes developed by DPI. In return for their support, DPI will provide the participating organizations with several hundred copies of the publication.

49. The Department is also producing an illustrated, abbreviated version of the "World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons", as well as newly designed reprints of the World Programme's full text in Arabic, English and French.

50. In connection with special General Assembly meetings on disability and ageing scheduled to take place during the forty-seventh session, DPI prepared print public service announcements for use in news magazines and non-governmental organization publications; two information kits in English, French and Spanish on key issues concerning ageing and disability; and an exhibit on ageing. The Department is also coordinating several special programmes and briefings for non-governmental organizations, as well as arrangements for non-governmental organization-sponsored exhibits, to be held in September and October.

51. The Department provided press, radio and television coverage and press accreditation for the Ministerial Meeting on the Creation of an Effective United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, held in Paris in November 1991. Apart from the background press release produced in English and French, six press releases in both languages were produced and released on site and in New York, Geneva and Vienna. The opening and round-up releases were sent by telefax to selected media outlets in Europe and North America and provided to United Nations information centres that have electronic mail capability. After the Ministerial Meeting, a short backgrounder on its results was produced by DPI at Vienna in consultation with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch.

XI. ACTIVITIES PERTAINING TO ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

52. DPI was requested in paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of resolution 46/73 B to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to environment and development.

53. During the reporting period, the Department proceeded with the implementation of its multimedia information programme on environment and development in connection with the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Brazil in June 1992. The Department's print activities included the issuance of a revised and updated edition of the pre-Conference publicity brochure in English, in February 1992; the preparation of background articles in the Earth Summit in Focus series, including "Population: balancing the global equation", "Protecting the diversity of species on the planet", "The business of sustainable development" and "Global climate change: the need for clean energy"; and the production and distribution of a full-size poster promoting the Earth Summit in all official languages and in Portuguese. In addition, UN Chronicle devoted 24 pages of its June 1992 issue to the Earth Summit.

54. A large number of audio-visual materials were produced by DPI for the Conference, including an animated children's video on sustainable development; an educational video and teaching guide on environment and development in the series About the United Nations; and a series of public service announcements for television promoting environmental sustainability and the Earth Summit.

55. The Department completed production of a special series of eight radio documentary programmes under the general title Earth Summit 1992, dealing with such issues as "Protecting our rivers", "Food security for a growing world", "Preserving our forests", "Sustaining the global atmosphere", "Women as the key to sustainable development", "Sustaining our oceans", "The greening of business" and "The impact of poverty on sustainable development". The series was distributed in several languages to radio stations and networks around the world, including Radio Japan and the American Public Radio Network.

56. The Department also produced and distributed to television stations world wide 13 video items on sustainable development in the UN in Action series. These items were also packaged for further distribution in English, French and Spanish. Some of the topics covered were reforestation in Panama, return of the rain forest to its indigenous population, ozone depletion, United Nations preparations for the Earth Summit, biodiversity in Colombia, environmental lessons of Cubatao and digging of a water channel in Mali.

57. Another series of video programmes co-produced with Worldwide Television News was compiled as a package in English, French and Spanish on various issues of environment and development for use in connection with the Conference. The topics covered were sustainable consumption, sustainable technology, climate change, land management, freshwater management in the Great Lakes and biodiversity.

58. Three editions of World Chronicle were devoted to Conference-related issues and featured Maurice Strong, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Michael Zammit Cutajar, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change, and Jean-Claude Faby, Director of the New York Office of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.
59. The Department has also produced a half-hour video documentary about the Earth Summit, which covers the main events and sums up its achievements. The programme will be distributed through United Nations information centres to television stations world wide.
60. In connection with inter-agency cooperation on the environment, as called for in resolution 46/73 B, paragraph 1 (o), the United Nations system exhibition at the Earth Summit, mounted by DPI at RioCentro, became the visual leitmotif of the event. Many of the world's television media used the exhibit as a backdrop for their reports. DPI also compiled and distributed at the Summit a kit on the work of the United Nations system on sustainable development, for which inserts were produced by various agencies and programmes.
61. The press kit distributed to journalists at the Conference included summaries of the revised draft Agenda 21, Forest Principles, the Rio Declaration and the conventions on climate change and biodiversity; Issues in Brief - fact sheets on major issues; "Quotable quotes"; a background press release; information notes on Conference logistics; and glossy sheets of the Conference logo. Some 9,000 kits were distributed in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.
62. DPI worked for one year to prepare for press coverage of the Earth Summit. It serviced the Conference with 43 international and 40 local staff. Planning for this unprecedented event involved interdepartmental meetings, as well as meetings with the Government of Brazil, and focused on training and personnel, equipment, facilities, services and production.
63. DPI organized and operated the Press Centre at RioCentro, providing services to some 8,700 accredited journalists. These services included: accreditation; document distribution; audio-visual coverage and facilities; photographic services; press briefings; press releases; coordination of press access to meetings; and interviews with United Nations senior officials. The briefing room at the Press Centre, run by DPI, was fully booked on all days of the Conference for 30-minute briefings. Office space was provided for press officers from the specialized agencies and from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development Media Office.
64. In terms of the Department's own coverage of the Conference proceedings, a team of radio officers travelled to Rio de Janeiro, and provided daily news reports and weekly round-ups for use both in United Nations radio programmes and for broadcasters world wide. These reports were also sent regularly via New York to short-wave broadcasters in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the

Middle East, with whom prior arrangements had been made to broadcast both locally and regionally.

65. Full live television coverage during the Conference included, inter alia, the arrival of world leaders on the opening day, the flag-raising ceremony, the daily morning and afternoon plenary meetings, the press conferences and the signatures of the conventions on biodiversity and climate change. The Department received more than 350 requests for a television package, which included multiple items, in addition to the daily packages for the international news syndicators Visnews and Worldwide Television News.

66. During the Conference, more than 6,000 photographs were provided to the media and delegations on a same-day basis. During the Conference, the Department issued 30 press releases in English and 27 in French.

XII. CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

67. The Department was requested in resolution 46/73 B, paragraph 1 (b) (iii), to continue to disseminate information about United Nations activities pertaining to the international fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. In this connection, DPI covered extensively the 1991 visit to Peru by the Executive Director of the United Nations Drug Control Programme for the purpose of exploring ways for the United Nations to monitor agreements between the Peruvian Government and the coca farmers. The United Nations information centre at Lima organized a press conference with the Executive Director and issued a press release.

68. A booklet describing the proposed United Nations photo exhibit on drug control was produced for use in funding efforts. The objective is to obtain sponsorship by private sector organizations for this project, which is wholly dependent on external fund-raising. In addition, the Department is awaiting a final decision on designs for logos it has prepared for the United Nations Drug Control Programme and for the Decade against Drug Abuse.

69. Advance copies of the 1991 Report of the International Narcotics Control Board were distributed to correspondents at Headquarters in English, French and Spanish, and were also sent to all United Nations information centres in the appropriate languages. Press releases on the report were distributed to the media at Headquarters and through the information centres.

70. The Department also produced a special radio documentary entitled "The global drug problem". Produced in English, the documentary was adapted in the other five official languages, as well as in seven other languages, and distributed to broadcasters world wide.

71. In coordination with the New York City Mayor's Office of Drug Abuse Policy, the Department in February assisted with arrangements and prepared a press release for the preparatory meeting for the International Conference of Mayors against Drug Abuse, later held in May at Buenos Aires. In cooperation

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with the United Nations Drug Control Programme, DPI is revising and reprinting the booklet "The United Nations and drug abuse control" in English, French and Spanish.

XIII. ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

72. In resolution 46/73 B, paragraph 1 (b) (iv), the General Assembly requested DPI to do its utmost to disseminate widely and to publicize the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 and the tremendous efforts of the African countries towards recovery and development, as well as the positive response by the international community to alleviate the serious economic situation prevailing in Africa.

73. The basis of most of the Department's work in this area was the Final Review and Assessment of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 by the General Assembly, which resulted in the adoption of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. The Department's efforts in this regard, through a specially produced media package and a series of press events and interviews, yielded prominent coverage of the crisis by virtually all of the world's major internationally disseminated newspapers, the two television news channels distributed world wide (the new BBC-TV World Service and CNN), numerous international radio programmes, as well as the national media in virtually all African and developed countries.

74. In addition to widely disseminating the report of the Secretary-General and of the General Assembly on the review of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, the Department also continued publication of its quarterly periodical Africa Recovery. For "excellent documentation on the African crisis and effective strategies for action", this publication, along with other well-known mass media, was awarded a World Hunger Media Award by the non-governmental organization World Hunger Year.

75. The Department also produced a number of briefing papers and pamphlets on environment and development, the economic repercussions of a free South Africa, southern Africa and the issue of African debt relief.

XIV. ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF APARTHEID

76. In paragraph 1 (b) (v) of resolution 46/73 B, the Department was requested to enhance the effectiveness of its activities and the dissemination of information on United Nations activities against the policies and practices of apartheid, giving due attention to the unilateral measures and official censorship imposed on the local and international media with regard to all aspects of that issue.

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77. In pursuance of that mandate, the Department continued to implement its programme of promoting ideas embodied in the General Assembly Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa. The Apartheid South Africa Travelling Exhibit, produced jointly by the Centre against Apartheid and DPI, was updated in order to take into account the changing situation in South Africa. The exhibit was displayed in Germany, Peru, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. At the same time, a promotion campaign utilizing seminars, pamphlets and press conferences was conducted to reinforce the exhibit's message.

78. The Department continued to distribute the seven language versions of the poster "For a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa" and the postcard version of the poster, produced in English and French.

79. The Department has continued to produce special radio programmes on this priority issue and to provide a weekly news telephone dispatch to radio broadcasting stations in southern Africa. At present, special attention is being given to the role of the United Nations in the current political situation in South Africa.

XV. ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

80. In paragraph 1 (b) (vii) of resolution 46/73 B, the General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to ensure that DPI continued to cover all United Nations activities pertaining to the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine in particular, and current developments in that region. Information activities relevant to the issue were also carried out by the Department within the framework of its programme on the question of Palestine mandated by General Assembly resolution 46/74 C of 11 December 1991.

81. Included in the programme are a variety of projects, such as the organizing of international, regional and national encounters on the question of Palestine, the holding of fact-finding missions for journalists to the Middle East and the publishing of special materials.

82. The Department sponsored an Encounter for Irish Journalists on the Question of Palestine, held at Dublin on 5 May 1992. The theme of this event, co-sponsored by the Centre for European Economic and Public Affairs, University College Dublin, was "Preparing for peace: the imperative for interim relief in the occupied Palestinian territory". Issues related to the obligations of the High Contracting Parties to the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War were discussed, and practical approaches to Europe's role *vis-à-vis* the question of protection were explored. Prominent Palestinian and Israeli personalities and European experts served as panelists. A regional encounter for European journalists was held at Lisbon on 16 and 17 September 1992, which was attended by more than 50 European journalists. In addition, a tour for journalists to the Middle East is being planned for late 1992.

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83. The Department issued a poster promoting the message of self-determination as an inalienable right of the Palestinian people and a booklet based on the proceedings of the International Encounter for European Journalists on the Question of Palestine, held at Helsinki in June 1991.

XVI. MODERN TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE COLLECTION, PRODUCTION,
STORAGE, DISSEMINATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF
INFORMATION MATERIALS

84. In resolution 46/73 B, paragraph 1 (c) (ii), the General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to ensure that DPI continued to apply, in the context of the review of its role, performance and methods of work, appropriate modern technologies for the collection, production, storage, dissemination and distribution of information materials.

85. In 1992, the Department began using a totally computerized system for telecommunications with United Nations information centres and other field offices. Outgoing messages for public information purposes are now handled by a computer programme that automatically routes messages by electronic mail, telex or telefax, depending on the facilities available at the receiving end. This makes it possible to send messages from the desktop throughout DPI to nearly 150 official addresses, with minimal handling and at the lowest possible telecommunications cost. So far, 54 United Nations information centres have been computerized. In 1992, 15 information centres were equipped with laser printers.

86. During the reporting period, access to electronic mail has been extended to United Nations information centres at Islamabad, New Delhi and Prague, which brings to 29 the number of centres now utilizing this economic means of communication. Centres at Cairo and Port-of-Spain are in the process of obtaining such a capability.

87. To ensure timely distribution of information materials to subscribers, press releases are now transmitted electronically to Reuters Information Services as they are issued, for inclusion in a service available on a subscription basis. Global Education Motivators, a non-governmental organization that manages the Information Services on the United Nations, is negotiating to place the Services on a computer accessible to a larger number of users.

88. A computerized mailing list programme for microcomputers has been developed for United Nations information centres and is now being tested at several centres. Its aim is to automate record-keeping and the printing of labels, while standardizing the collection of names and addresses. Copies of United Nations information centres' mailing lists will be maintained in a computerized master list at Headquarters and made available to other DPI units for purposes of targeted dissemination in individual countries.

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XVII. ANNUAL TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR BROADCASTERS AND
JOURNALISTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

89. In resolution 46/73 B, paragraph 1 (c) (vi), the General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to ensure that DPI continued its briefing, assistance and orientation programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries focused on United Nations-related issues.

90. Broadcasters and journalists from 15 countries are taking part in the 1992 programme, being held from 8 September to 16 October 1992. Four journalists sponsored by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation will also participate in the programme. Thus, a total of 209 broadcasters and journalists from more than 115 countries will have participated in the DPI media training programme since 1981.

91. Participants will be given an opportunity to become familiar with the work of the United Nations, to strengthen their professional skills and to learn more about the major national and international media and research institutions based in New York. They will visit the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at Washington, D.C., and spend a weekend at Rochester at the invitation of the Rochester Association for the United Nations. Participants will also be required to carry out work assignments under the supervision of DPI officials, which will be compiled into a booklet for presentation to them, as well as to their respective missions.

XVIII. UN CHRONICLE

92. In paragraph 1 (d) of resolution 46/73 B, DPI was requested to produce and distribute its publications in a timely manner. Further, with regard to the UN Chronicle, the General Assembly requested DPI to consider the interests of specific target audiences and take action to expand its circulation.

93. The UN Chronicle has been issued as a quarterly news magazine since May 1986 and improvements in its format and printing have been welcomed by its readers and by the General Assembly. However, there have been numerous requests from subscribers that it be issued more frequently, so that the information provided, such as proceedings of the Security Council, would be available sooner. Also, many readers have asked that the annual index, discontinued in 1985, be restored.

94. DPI in the past has conducted several readership surveys among UN Chronicle subscribers in order to assess the needs of the target audience and help widen the circulation of this publication. In a report on the 1988 survey of the UN Chronicle, submitted to the Committee on Information in 1989, 2/ the Department recommended, *inter alia*, reviewing the periodicity of the magazine to improve the timeliness of information provided to readers. In view of this continuing interest of the subscribers, the Department intends to examine the possibility of changing the periodicity of this publication, as

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well as the financial implications thereof, and will report to the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly through the Committee on Information.

XIX. YEARBOOK OF THE UNITED NATIONS

95. Also in paragraph 1 (d) of resolution 46/73 B, it was noted in regard to the Secretary-General's report on the Yearbook of the United Nations, 3/ that the Committee on Information shared his assessment regarding delays in the publication of the Yearbook, as well as recommended its continuation and the maintenance of its editorial independence, objectivity and comprehensiveness. The Secretary-General was requested to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the report, particularly as regards paragraphs 66 and 67.

96. DPI has made considerable progress in the implementation of these recommendations. It accepted the offer of Martinus Nijhoff Publishers to fund and hire experienced editors/writers on a temporary basis to provide the assistance required to eliminate the backlog editions. The Department has drawn up new research and production guidelines and restructured the scope and content of the Yearbook in order to eliminate the backlog by 1993 and proceed with the publication of the current edition (vol. 45, 1991) in 1992.

97. As scheduled, volume 41, 1987, was published this year. Volume 42, 1988, is expected to be published in April 1993. Research for the 1989 and 1990 editions is expected to commence in October 1992. Work on the 1991 edition is at an advanced stage and is expected to be completed by the end of September, with its publication to follow soon thereafter.

XX. DEVELOPMENT FORUM

98. In paragraph 1 (f) of resolution 46/73 B, the Secretary-General was urged by the Assembly to continue his efforts to secure a sound and stable financial basis for the publication Development Forum.

99. It must be noted in that regard that the financial situation of Development Forum has continued to deteriorate, despite the efforts by DPI to secure additional funding from the members of the Joint United Nations Information Committee, as well as from other sources.

100. The Committee on Information at its recent fourteenth session unanimously recommended continued timely production of Development Forum. A recent readership survey, conducted by DPI, indicated a broad constituency and its strong support for the publication.

101. The future of the publication was the subject of lengthy discussions at the eighteenth session of the Joint Committee held in July 1992. In view of the agreement on the need for a system-wide publication on economic and social issues, the Committee established a working group consisting of

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representatives of DPI, UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank to study the issue and report its findings to the Committee by November 1992.

102. The Joint United Nations Information Committee noted that, while taking into account the findings of its working group, in view of the recommendations of the Committee on Information at its recent session, it was important that the Department maintain Development Forum until the General Assembly could reach a decision on the issue.

103. Despite its critical financial status, Development Forum has managed to maintain regular publication of its three language editions (English, French and Spanish). During the reporting period, it has focused on issues in connection with the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The May-June 1992 issue, for example, was devoted entirely to the Earth Summit, and additional copies were distributed at Rio de Janeiro during the Conference.

104. Regrettably, without additional funding, it will not be possible to publish Development Forum beyond the end of 1992. It should be noted that a separate report on the subject is being submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

XXI. UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRES

105. In paragraph 1 (g) of resolution 46/73 B, the General Assembly requested that DPI conduct a periodic evaluation of the efficiency of each United Nations information centre in disseminating information.

106. In April 1992, the Department conducted a comprehensive survey of activities undertaken by United Nations information centres, with a focus on their efforts to enhance public awareness of United Nations priority themes, to utilize materials produced by Headquarters, to cooperate with other field offices and to provide services to local media organizations and non-governmental organizations. At Headquarters, efforts are under way to develop a data bank of activities undertaken by information centres, which would facilitate further analysis and improvement of programme delivery, taking into account both United Nations resources and regional requirements.

107. In paragraph 1 (h) of resolution 46/73 B, the General Assembly requested the Department to coordinate closely with other field offices of the United Nations system, particularly those of UNDP, and, in countries where no local United Nations information centre existed, the Department was requested to ensure that adequate information about the United Nations was provided.

108. In this connection, the Department, jointly with UNDP, has been actively pursuing the integration of certain United Nations information centres with UNDP field offices. Without prejudice to the functional autonomy of the information component in the field offices, the objective is to seek to

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present a unified image of the United Nations as well as to increase efficiency through the achievement of economies of scale. Eighteen information centres headed by a UNDP resident representative acting concurrently as information centre director have been integrated as the first phase of the integration exercise. These centres were instructed to further share resources and facilities as feasible and to coordinate more closely in planning activities, external relations and administrative support areas. Their experiences will be examined over a trial period of one year and will be communicated to other field offices that could also benefit from closer coordination. All centres were further instructed to strengthen coordination with other United Nations agencies, United Nations Associations and other non-governmental organizations. The Department, jointly with UNDP, is continuing the review of its information activities in the field, taking into full account the guidelines and mandates established by the General Assembly.

109. In addition, at the initiative of the Secretary-General, efforts are well under way towards the establishment of United Nations interim offices, initially in six member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States, namely, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. These offices will provide a unified United Nations presence and ensure practical and effective dialogue between the United Nations and the new Member States of the Organization. These offices will focus on development as well as public information activities, with major responsibilities to include the initiation of special projects to support economic transition; strengthening the role of national media and its infrastructure; and liaison with non-governmental organizations, governmental agencies and academic institutions. The offices will be jointly staffed, at the professional level, by United Nations Secretariat and UNDP personnel.

110. The Department considers the establishment of the category of national information officer, recruited locally, as a critical element of successful operation in the field. Accordingly, it is hoped that such a position can be extended to all relevant field offices in order to ensure coordination of activities by all United Nations offices in a given locality, as well as to assist in forging contacts with local media and in maintaining dialogue with non-governmental organizations, governmental agencies and academic institutions.

111. In paragraph 1 (i) of resolution 46/73 B, the General Assembly requested the Department to make every effort, where necessary, to seek reimbursement from other organizations that call upon the United Nations information centres to undertake tasks beyond their specific mandate. In this regard, the Department is consulting the relevant organizations to devise appropriate cost-apportioning methods where applicable. This is particularly important in the integrated offices, where the information component will continue to maintain an autonomous accounting system. The Department has also requested the relevant organizations to create a separate item for publicity in their project budgets, so that the information component would be able to draw on resources as necessary.

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112. In paragraph 1 (1) of resolution 46/73 B, the General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to provide the necessary professionals and equipment where necessary for the enhancing of the United Nations information centres at Tehran, Dar es Salaam, Dhaka and Bujumbura.

113. In this connection, in 1991, the Department appointed a full-time locally recruited Information Assistant in Tehran, and has initiated action to recruit a Reference Assistant. The Centre has full access to equipment and facilities of the local UNDP office.

114. The Centre at Dar es Salaam presently has four Local-level staff. Two staff members received computer training in 1991 and the Administrative Assistant participated in a seminar on administrative issues organized by a local institution. The Centre was supplied with a computer, printer, telefax and telex machine, as well as a motor vehicle.

115. In Dhaka, the Information Centre was provided a motor vehicle and scooter for distribution of information. Equipment supplied included computer, telefax and telex machines. The Centre already has four Local-level staff, while an Information Assistant is currently being recruited. Three staff members received computer training in 1991.

116. The United Nations Information Centre in Bujumbura has five Local-level staff and is equipped with telefax and telex machines. The Senior Information Assistant participated in a special briefing programme held at Headquarters in 1991.

117. In paragraph 1 (m) of resolution 46/73 B, the General Assembly approved the establishment of a new United Nations information centre at San'a. In that connection, the Department has initiated action to establish an information operation, which included a visit by a DPI official to Yemen in late August to negotiate, within current guidelines and limited resources, logistical and other issues related to that operation.

118. In paragraph 1 (m), the General Assembly also took note of the requests of Costa Rica and Bulgaria to have information components in their countries. In that regard, the Department has taken steps to cooperate more closely with the University of Peace as a focal point of dissemination of United Nations information materials in Costa Rica. The Department will give a thorough briefing on United Nations information materials to personnel in charge of information collection at the University. Initial contacts with Bulgarian officials have sought to explore the possible areas of cooperation, particularly the designation of a focal point, along the lines of cooperation with the University of Peace in Costa Rica.

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XXII. COORDINATION OF INFORMATION ACTIVITIES
OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

119. In paragraph 1 (n) of General Assembly resolution 46/73 B, in recognition of the need for coordinating the information activities of the United Nations system, DPI was encouraged to continue its active participation in the work of the Joint United Nations Information Committee.

120. Accordingly, the Department has continued to provide secretariat services for the Joint Committee. In that capacity, it organized the eighteenth session of the Committee, convened under the chairmanship of Mr. Richard Lydiker, Director of Information of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and held from 7 to 9 July 1992 at FAO headquarters at Rome. Many issues of mutual concern and interest to the organizations of the United Nations system were taken up, including the following:

(a) The Joint Committee discussed at length the work programme and funding of the Non-Governmental Liaison Service. It recognized the need to further increase inter-agency cooperation with the non-governmental organization community through the Service, and decided to recommend to the Administrative Committee on Coordination that this Service become a United Nations system jointly financed activity based on voluntary and sustainable financial contributions.

(b) The Committee also discussed issues related to Development Forum, at present the only system-wide publication on economic and social issues. The summary of the discussion in the Committee is contained in paragraphs 101 and 102 above.

(c) The Committee also reviewed its participation in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which had been at the core of its agenda over the past year, and discussed inter-agency activities that could be undertaken as a follow up to the Conference.

(d) In addition, the Committee considered project proposals for inter-agency information programmes for a number of major upcoming events, including the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women and the observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

(e) The Committee discussed the arrangements for the completion of the "Agenda for a small planet IV" series of television documentaries produced by participants from both developed and developing countries under the working title "Blueprint for the future: challenge and response". It agreed in principle to co-sponsor the preparation of another such series ("Agenda V") that would concentrate on issues relating to women and development, to be produced by 1995, in the context of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, as well as the Fourth World Conference on Women.

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121. At the session, the Department reiterated its commitment to strengthening cooperation further with other members of the Joint Committee in areas of mutual concern, whether that be in sharing the services and facilities of United Nations information centres in the field, the technical facilities and expertise of the Department, or the pooling of financial resources and staff for the development of joint information activities and programmes.

122. The report of the Joint United Nations Information Committee has been submitted to the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 21) A/47/21.

2/ A/AC.198/1989/3.

3/ A/AC.198/1991/6.
